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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 8 July 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a statement of the Government of Georgia regarding the latest explosions in Georgia's region of Abkhazia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Chikovani**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 8 July 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Government of Georgia on explosions in the Gali District

7 July 2008

The last two days have seen a continuation of the recent series of explosions in Georgia's region of Abkhazia. Unfortunately the blast in the Gali district killed several citizens of Georgia. The Government of Georgia conveys its condolences to the families of the blast victims.

We condemn these and all previous acts of violence. It is a regrettable fact in the Abkhazian region — on the territory, which is outside the control of the central authorities, amid unlawfulness and negligence of the constitution, basic human rights, including the rights to life in dignity, to work, to free movement and to education, continue to be trampled on.

Those acts of violence are in the interests of forces hoping to prolong the presence of illegally deployed Russian military forces in Georgia; of forces resisting demilitarization and peace in the region and of those who want to derail Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

In order to prevent further escalation in the region, on condition of a withdrawal of the Russian military forces from the Ochamchire and Gali districts, the Georgian Government reiterates its readiness to establish there a joint local police force under international supervision, which will efficiently provide conditions for the protection of the fundamental rights of Georgian citizens.